

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 USIA-06 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-04 COME-00 /038 W

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P 100530Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7572

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FOR EA/RA (HARRIS); CU/IVP/V AND DEPT OF LABOR ILAB (SAMUEL)
FROM LABATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA, OEXC

SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE: SHINSANBETSU LABOR TEAM

REFS: A) TOKYO 6688; B) TOKYO 5664

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1. TRIP TO U.S. AT THIS TIME BY TOP LEADERS OF SHINSANBETSU, SMALL (70,000 MEMBERS) BUT VERY ACTIVE NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION, SHOULD BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF LONG DISCUSSED AND RECENTLY REVIVED MOVES BY NON-MARXIST PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS, NOW BELONGING TO VARIOUS NATIONAL CENTERS AND SUPPORTING DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES, TO GROUP TOGETHER IN NEW CONFEDERATION WHICH COULD PROVIDE FUNDING AND POLITICAL MUSCLE FOR SINGLE ANTI-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION PARTY. CURRENT FLURRY OF ACTIVITY SEEN ALSO IN POLITICAL SPHERE WHERE SABURO EDA FINALLY WALKED OUT OF SOCIALIST PARTY IN MARCH, SPURRED IN LARGE PART BY BELIEF THAT LDP WILL LOSE JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION AND WILL THEN CAST AROUND FOR SOME TYPE OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH CENTRIST OPPOSITION PARTNER. MODERATE LABOR
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UNIONS THEREFORE POSITIONING THEMSELVES TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN FORMATION OF POLITICAL ENTITY CAPABLE OF RESPONDING TO POSSIBLE LDP OVERTURES.

2. AS USUAL, MODERATE LABOR LEADERS COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER FOR PRINCIPAL ROLE IN THIS SCENARIO. AS TOMITA OUTLINED TO LABATT LAST NOV (NOV 30 MEMO OF

CONVERSATION) HE EXPECTS FIRST MAJOR MOVE WILL BE MERGER OF SMALL SHINSANBETSU WITH 1.3 MILLION MEMBER CHURITSU ROREN. SINCE DOMEI LEADERS ALSO SEE THEMSELVES AS PRINCIPAL ACTORS, PERSONALITY CLASHES AND BUREAUCRATIC RIVALRIES HAVE POTENTIAL FOR SLOWING DOWN THESE UNITY MOVES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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3. DESIRE OF SHINSANBETSU LEADERS TO STUDY PROBLEMS FACED BY U.S. UNIONS IN ENTERING INTO MERGERS SHOULD BE SEEN AGAINST ABOVE BACKGROUND. THEY PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HOW U.S. UNIONS HANDLED PROBLEM OF INCORPORATING PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS WITH NO LOCAL UNION BASE INTO MERGED ENTITY. THEY WOULD APPRECIATE DISCUSSION OF UNSUCCESSFUL MERGER EFFORTS (OIL AND CHEMICAL WORKERS, UFT AND NEA IN NEW YORK) AS WELL AS RECENT SUCCESSES (TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WORKERS). HOPE THEREFORE THAT HOWARD SAMUEL CAN MEET WITH THEM.

4. TOMITA AND HASHIMOTO ALSO HOPE TRIP WILL ENABLE THEM TO EXPAND THEIR U.S. LABOR UNION CONTACTS AND THUS THEIR OWN STATUS IN JAPAN. TOMITA IN PARTICULAR IS VERY ARTICULATE LABOR SPOKESMAN WITH WIDE RANGE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND LABOR CONTACTS WHO APPEARS HEADED FOR POSITION OF MUCH GREATER RESPONSIBILITY IF MODERATE LABOR UNITY EFFORTS SUCCEED. HE WOULD ENJOY MEETING WITH AMERICAN SCHOLARS OF CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE POLITICS SUCH AS GERALD CURTIS AT COLUMBIA, EZRA VOGEL AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARVARD AND NAT THAYER AT JOHNS HOPKINS TO EXPLAIN CURRENT POLITICAL TRENDS TO THEM AND THEIR GRADUATE STUDENTS. IN NEW YORK, JAPAN SOCIETY (RUENITZ) MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HAVING TOMITA AND HASHIMOTO MEET WITH GROUP OF ACADEMICS.

5. SINCE TOMITA WILL VISIT SOVIET UNION AS PART OF LABOR DELEGATION PROTESTING SOVIET POSITION ON FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR U.S., AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL BUREAU MAY FIND HIS VIEWS ON SOVIET-JAPAN RELATIONS OF INTEREST.

6. ALSO RECOMMEND THAT BOTH TOMITA AND HASHIMOTO BE EXPOSED TO VIEWS WITHIN USG (STATE, STR, LABOR, COMMERCE) AS WELL AS AT AFL-CIO ON CURRENT BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES. END UNCLASSIFIED.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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